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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/15/02 9:26am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Good Morning

I read somewhere that you all are looking for opinions on the case involving Microsoft. If that is not the case please forgive me for wasting your time with this e-mail.

If it is the case, then I'd like to voice my opinion. Personally, I'm not a big fan of the Windows OS. My 98 crashes way too often and XP is a joke (Windows 2000 saves the day, though, so I am not totally anti-Windows). That being said however, I think Microsoft being sued on anti-trust grounds is ridiculous. If the Windows OS has a big share of the market, it's because it markets its products better. Apple was doing years before what Windows does now. However, thanks to Apple's not-so-savvy marketing and its insistence on proprietary hardware (i.e. no Apple "clones"), they were not able to get a big chunk of the market. Enter IBM and its slew of "clones", most using MS-DOS. Microsoft had a better market saturation because it aligned itself with IBM, which allowed other companies to mimic its hardware, meaning more people came in contact with MS products. That's not Microsoft's fault. Heck, that's capitalism pure and simple. To make Microsoft pay because it used business sense while its competitors did not goes against the grain of our system. Don't punish them because of our companies' shortsightedness.

Also, I've heard a lot of complaining about Windows being shipped with Internet Explorer and that that was unfair to other browser companies because it gave MS an unfair advantage. Rubbish. I only recently started using IE on machine at home and at work and only did that because Netscape kept crashing. Windows does not force anyone to use Internet Explorer.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Ben

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